

Stitching Memory: Commemorating 50 years of solidarity in Scotland

Arpillera workshop Facilitated by Jimena Pardo on the 31st May 2024
Advanced Research Centre (ARC), University of Glasgow



Photo gallery of the outcomes from the arpillera workshop that accompanied the Stitching Memory exhibition, marking 50 years of solidarity in Scotland. The arpilleras on display and the textiles I showed in my presentation all had a strong connection to human rights, exile, and refugees. The question I led with was about what solidarity means to the participants. *Photos by Soledad Montañez, Gabriela Cruz and Jimena Pardo.*



After a presentation of my textile work and textiles from other collaborative projects such as Bordando por la Memoria, Stitch for Change, and Arpillorando el Exilio. I showed two embroidery stitches that are used in arpilleras and we referred to the arpillera Queremos Democracia / We want democracy as a starting point to make their arpillera.

The workshop was well attended with around 25 participants from different backgrounds, including academic, activist, and creative. Some participants brought objects that told a story of solidarity, like the Mexican bandana; 'Paliacates' worn by the Zapatistas. Someone brought a quilt they had made to question higher education creatively. And another participant brought a badge that had 'Queers for Palestine' written on it.

Toward the end of the workshop, we fed back on each solidarity story and ways we can show

solidarity especially when there is censorship. Many of the workshop participants decided to make arpilleras that linked to Palestine.

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The Mexican Paliccate inspired these two women to make an arpillera about scarfs of solidarity, including the cueca sola, the mothers of Plaza De Mayo, The feminist movement in Latin America, and the Zapatista women.



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Presenting our stories and solidarity objects.



Learning stitches and starting to put together ideas.

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Many of the participants came with prior knowledge of embroidery and were very quick to learn the arpillera stitches and some had a strong connection to Chile, and solidarity movements, or worked with refugee communities. I feel that the overall outcomes and responses from the group were positive and the feedback reaffirmed this. Many Thanks to Soledad Montañez and Gabriela Cruz who planned this exhibition and workshop alongside Roberta Bacic and myself.

